

from blows to the terminal cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and

- ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

Amend Claim 16 to read as follows:

16. (amended) A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals adapted to be placed on a vertical non-integral separate support surfaces and having exterior exposed card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, and electrical connections, comprising:

- a. a transparent rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with
- b. a plurality of rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust and grease impervious sidewalls which define an open bottomed interior chamber sized to fit about and direct contact forces, liquids, dust and grease coming into contact with the cover away from the bank card terminal and onto [when placed on] an independent support surface not part of the bank card terminal; said sidewalls
 - i. extending sufficiently to contact the non-integral support surface not part of the terminal cover to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and
 - ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal,
- c. opening structure associated with the top of the bank card terminal and terminal cover to provide access to the bank card terminal keyboard and card reading slot in a first

mode, and to close about and secure the bank card terminal in a second mode, and a shock absorbing seal affixed to the edges of the cover sidewalls to seal with the vertical non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal.

Remarks

The Final Office Action dated 6/12/03 has been reviewed. The foregoing amendments are submitted to comply with the Examiner's requirement to avoid the necessity of color drawings, and more particular point out how applicant's invention is different from the *Eppich* reference, and add no new subject matter. Specifically, the claims were amended to more particularly describe how the cover is non-integral to the bank card terminal and directs contact forces onto the non-integral support surfaces not part of the terminal cover upon which the bank card terminal rests. Support for the amendments are found in the specification and the drawings. The claim amendments are submitted now in an attempt to avoid the necessity of an appeal. Attached are marked and unmarked copies of the amended base claims.

Applicant incorporates by reference its previous comments in the Third Amendment regarding the rejection of Claims 9 through 16, as amended, on the grounds of obviousness in the event an appeal is still necessary to resolve this matter. The *Eppich* cover directs shocks, spills, dust, and liquids into grooves on the *Eppich* support surface of the bank card terminal itself. Consequently, the *Eppich* bank card terminal electronics may be severely damaged in a manner avoided by applicant's invention, which acts as a protective barrier to insure that shocks, spills, dust, and liquids contacting the cover are directed onto the non-integral support surface not a part of the bank card terminal. If further claim amendments are required, a telephonic conference with the Examiner is requested.

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Unmarked Claims

9. (amended) A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals adapted to be placed on non-integral separate support surfaces and having exterior exposed card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, and electrical connections, comprising:

- a. a rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top having
- b. a plurality of rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust and grease impervious sidewalls which define an open bottomed interior chamber sized and structured to fit about and direct cover forces, liquids, dust and grease coming into contact with the cover away from the bank card terminal and onto the independent support surface not apart of the bank card terminal; said sidewalls
 - i. extending sufficiently to contact the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the terminal cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and
 - ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

16. (amended) A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals adapted to be placed on a vertical non-integral separate support surfaces and having exterior exposed card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, and electrical connections, comprising:

- a. a transparent rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with
- b. a plurality of rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust and grease impervious sidewalls which define an open bottomed interior chamber sized to fit about and direct contact forces, liquids, dust and grease coming into contact with

the cover away from the bank card terminal and onto an independent support surface not part of the bank card terminal; said sidewalls

- i. extending sufficiently to contact the vertical non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and
- ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal,

c. opening structure associated with the top of the bank card terminal and terminal cover to provide access to the bank card terminal keyboard and card reading slot in a first mode, and to close about and secure the bank card terminal in a second mode, and

d. a shock absorbing seal affixed to the edges of the cover sidewalls to seal with the vertical non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal.